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'AIR POLLUTION KILLED 1.7 LAKH INDIANS IN 2019'

As much as 18% of the total deaths last year were due to air pollution, says a new paper published in Lancet Planetary Health

1.4% GDP LOST DUE TO POOR AIR QUALITY

According to the paper, air pollution shrank India's GDP by 1.4%. However, the study found household air pollution decreased in India, resulting in 64% drop in the death rate attributable to it between 1990 and 2019. ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava attributed this to govt schemes such as the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' and 'Unnat Chulha Abhiyan'

NORTHERN STATES BIGGEST LOSERS

The scientific paper noted that the economic loss due to air pollution as a percentage of the state GDP was higher in the northern and central India states, with the highest in Uttar Pradesh (2.2% of the GDP) and Bihar (2% of the GDP). Delhi had the highest per-capita economic loss at \$62

₹2.6 lakh cr

LOSS TO ECONOMY AS PREMATURE DEATHS SHRANK INDIA'S PRODUCTIVITY

CBSE Class 10 & 12 board exams only after Feb '21

Minister says dates will be decided later, rules out online format

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Secondary Education examinations for Classes 10 and 12 will not be held in February, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced during an interaction with teachers on Tuesday.

"I received a lot of requests from students and teachers to postpone the CBSE board exams for Class 10 and 12. Keeping the Covid-19 pandemic in mind, we have decided that board exams will not be held in February," the minister tweeted.

The exams will be held later, the minister said, but did not give any specific dates. He only said it will be announced soon. "Our government is in favour of students," he posted on Twitter.

Unlike classes, the board exams will not be held online since "many schools are in rural areas," the minister said, adding that exams will not be cancelled either. "The CBSE board exams will be conducted based on a reduced syllabus," Pokhriyal also said, adding

that 30 per cent of the total syllabus has been scrapped. While some states have declared as much, others are likely to make an announcement soon. There will also be 33 per cent internal choice in the exam, he said.

"We cannot allow Covid-19 to impact students and have them labelled as Covid-era students who cleared the classes without any examination," Pokhriyal noted, emphasising the need to conduct exams despite

trying circumstances.

"We have organised JEE, NEET exams this year. It was one of the biggest examinations conducted amid the Covid-19 pandemic," he said in response to a query by a teacher.

The change in schedule for board exams comes days after the National Testing Agency published a brochure for the Joint Entrance Examination (Main), which said that the tests will be held four times next year beginning February.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE 125 DAYS OF CLASSES

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru



STUDENTS of Classes 10 and 12 may get about 125 days from January 1, when offline classes reopen, to prepare for the board exams.

While Primary & Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar on Monday said during a phone-in programme that the board exams will not be held in March like usual, the minister informed *The New Indian Express* that the examinations will not take place for about 125 days, which means the board exams may not be conducted until the last week of April or early May. However, an official communication in this regard is yet to be issued. P2

80% average voter turnout in phase-1 panchayat polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ELECTIONS to 3,019 gram panchayats in 117 taluks were held in the first phase on Tuesday under the Covid-19 shadow, with half of rural Karnataka casting their votes. While polling was about 80 per cent overall, it crossed 85 per cent in some districts, which is much higher than the turnout for the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Except for a few stray incidents, where polling was disrupted for some time, the elections were by and large peaceful. The second phase of voting will be held on December 27 and counting of votes will be taken up on December 30. A total of 4,377 candidates have been elected unop-



Voters queue up at a polling booth to exercise their franchise in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, on Tuesday | SHIVAM BH

posed already officials said.

According to Karnataka State Election Commissioner Basavaraju, the voter turnout was around 80 per cent in 2015, and surprisingly this time, it is a little more. At many places like Kolar, voting was close to 90 per cent while in Hassan and Mandya districts, the turnout

was over 85 per cent. In one of the taluks in Bengaluru Rural, it even crossed 91 per cent. Dharwad, Koppal and Ballari witnessed around 80 per cent polling. "We had made all arrangements, but were apprehensive about voter turnout. Surprisingly, it crossed our expectations," he remarked. P4

Gupkar Alliance leads in 116 J&K DDC seats

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN the first major electoral exercise after Article 370 revocation, the Gupkar Alliance on Tuesday emerged the single largest group in the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu & Kashmir. Notably, the BJP made inroads and won three seats in Muslim-majority Kashmir — in Srinagar, Bandi-

pura and Pulwama.

In the 280 DDC seats, elections for which were held in eight phases, People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration comprising the NC, PDP, PC, ANC, JKPM, CPI and CPM was ahead in 116 seats (86 won and leading in 30 seats).

The BJP has emerged as the single largest party. It was ahead in 73 seats, having won

65 seats and leading in eight others. The independents have emerged as the third dominant force with 55 seats (36 won and leading in 19).

Top leaders of Gupkar Alliance, which was formed in October to fight for Article 370 restoration, had stayed away from the poll campaign and let the second-rung leaders lead the campaigning. P10

No night curfew or lockdown in K'taka, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ALLAYING apprehensions that night curfew may be imposed in the state, like in neighbouring Maharashtra, after a new strain of SARS-CoV2 was detected in Britain, Karnataka Chief Minister S Yediyurappa on Tuesday said there was no need for such a measure as of now. The State Government is also not looking at any kind of lockdown or quarantine for inter-state travellers.

The CM told media persons, "We understand that the finding of a mutated strain of the virus has worried the people of the state and also the country. We have come to know that someone who arrived in Chennai has been found infected. We have to be extra cautious and we have put stringent measures in place," he said. P3

\$ 1 BILLION CONTRACTS FOR IT FIRMS

Infosys and Wipro have won contracts worth over \$ 1 billion each from German auto major Daimler AG and food services giant, METRO AG | P13



BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Karnataka (Bengaluru) Centre

Builders' NGV Club, 3rd Floor, National Games Housing Complex, KHB, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560047.

"BUILDERS' DAY", 23rd DECEMBER 2020



SRI G.M. RAVINDRA
Chairman



SRI K.N. BABU REDDY
Vice Chairman



SRI ABDUL SATTAR
Hon. Secretary



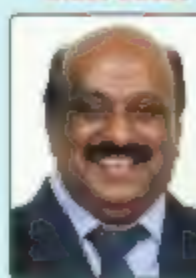
SRI N.M. KRISHNAMURTHY
Joint Secretary



SRI K.N. REVANNA
Hon. Treasurer



Chief Guest



SRI M. MOHAN
President
Builders' Association of India

Inauguration of the
New BAI Office Premises by



SRI H.N. VIJAYA RAGHAVA REDDY
Past President
Builders' Association of India

Guests of Honour



SRI U.M. GURUSHANTHAPPA
State Chairman Karnataka,
Builders' Association of India

Will also
grace the
occasion &
release
**ENGINEERING
DIARY 2021**

BUILDERS' DAY THEME - SAFETY IS NOT EXPENSIVE - IT IS PRICELESS

Construction work is a hazardous land-based job. Some construction site jobs include: building houses, roads, tree felling, workplaces and repair and maintain infrastructure. This work includes many hazardous task and conditions such as working with height, excavation, noise, dust, power tools and equipment. The most common fatalities are caused by the fatal four: falls, being struck by an object, electrocutions, and being caught in between two objects. Construction work has been increasing in developing and undeveloped countries over the past few years. With an increase in this type of work occupational fatalities have increased. Occupational fatalities are individuals who die while on the job or performing work related tasks.

There are three generations of construction safety informatics which are relevant to construction safety enhancement:

1. The first generation of construction safety informatics consisted of technologies that relied completely on control by human beings; for example, structural equation modelling requires the work of an analyst.
2. The second generation of construction safety informatics included smart features such as the Internet of Things which can send information to human operators, without human intervention - from sensors, etc. Yet, these "smart" tools cannot learn and improve on their own capabilities.
3. The third generation of construction safety informatics uses state-of-the-art AI, to mimic human behavior and think, act, learn and improve on its own decision making. All that is required is that the relevant information is fed to these systems, so that they can be 'taught'.

Inauguration of BUILDERS' DAY Celebration at 6.00 P.M.
Venue: 'Sitara Hall', Builders NGV Club, Bengaluru - 560047.

'Bharatha Rathna'
Sir M. Visvesvaraya Memorial Award to



SRI K.L. MOHAN RAO
Past State Chairman - Karnataka,
Builders' Association of India

Honouring of Senior Builders



SRI K. BABU RAJU
Managing Director
M/s KBR Infratech Limited



SRI SATYA REDDY
Class-I KPWD Contractor



SRI V. KRISHNA REDDY
Class-I KPWD Contractor

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